Spiritual and Meditation course for Government Officials

1649. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have directed its middle and top level officers to undergo a spiritual and meditation course offered by the Art of Living Foundation;

(b) if so, whether Government will incur the cost of training reported to be Rs. 1,500/- per paticipant; and

(c) how may officers in different Ministries/Departments have undergone the course and the likely impact on higher productivity and improved work culture in Government offices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Art of Living course was arranged for the officers/ staff who opted for it on a purely voluntary basis. The course fee was Rs. 1500/ per paticipant of which 10% of the course fee *i.e.* Rs. 150/- was charged by the Ministry/Department concerned from the participants.

(c) As per information available, the following Ministries/Department had facilitated Art of Living Course through Vyakti Vikas Kendra for their officers/staff:

S.No.	Name of Ministry/Deptt.	No. of Participants
1.	Ministry of Home Affairs	49
2.	Ministry of External Affairs	29
3.	Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution	32
4.	Department of Personnel and Training and Department of Pensions and Pensioners Welfare	60
	TOTAL:	170

A total of 170 officers/staff had attended the course. The course was generally well received by the participants.